

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO



FEDERAL BAR EXAMINATION

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS

The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico must verify that attorneys admitted to practice before this Court are proficient in the English language and capable of rendering effective assistance of counsel pursuant to the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Accordingly, applicants for district bar membership are required to execute a certification of proficiency in the English language as part of their application for the federal bar examination.

The Court has directed inclusion of a mandatory essay question in the federal bar examination. The essay question will not be graded on a percentage basis, but rather, on a “pass/fail” basis. The purpose of the question is to offer the applicant an opportunity to develop a concise and logically organized essay that will enable the Court to evaluate the applicant’s ability to express his or her thoughts clearly, coherently and effectively using Standard English. The Court does not seek perfection in the written language. However, the Court must verify that the applicant is capable of rendering constitutionally effective legal assistance.

In order to pass the federal bar examination, applicants must obtain both a minimum score of 65 percentage points in the multiple-choice portion of the exam and a grade of “pass” on the essay question. Applicants who do not answer the essay question will be deemed to have failed the federal bar examination, regardless of the result obtained in the multiple choice portion of the exam.

An applicant who passes the multiple choice portion of the federal bar examination, but who otherwise does not satisfactorily answer the essay question, will be referred to the District Examination Committee for further evaluation.

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**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS**

1. The examination will be administered on **Saturday, May 5, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** The last date to cancel your application to take the exam is Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 4:45 p.m. Candidates who request cancellation or do not show to take the bar examination will not be reimbursed the application fee of \$100.00.
2. The examination will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Persons who did not registered to take the examination by the due date will not be allowed to take the exam.
3. The testing site is:

Theater of the Inter-American University School of Law  
Tres Monjitas Industrial Park  
170 Federico Costa Street  
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00918-1303

Parking is available at the building's general parking area.

4. Photo I.D. card will be required for registration.
5. The examination will end at 12:00 p.m., at which time all examination material will be collected by the proctors. No additional time will be allowed.
6. The test must be answered using a soft-lead No. 2 pencil. A limited supply of pencils will be available on-site. Therefore, all applicants should bring with them at least two pencils. Pencil sharpeners will be available on site.
7. Once the exam results are available for review, notice will be sent to the email address provided by the applicant in the Application Form. The notice will provide a link to Court's website, at [www.prd.uscourts.gov](http://www.prd.uscourts.gov), where applicants can retrieve their score.
8. Applicants should expect the examination results to be available within 4 to 6 weeks after the date of examination.

**THERE WILL BE NO QUESTIONS ABOUT COMPUTATION OF TERMS UNLESS JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES ARE INVOLVED.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT THE AMENDMENTS ADOPTED BY THE RULES ENABLING ACT, 28 USC §2072, THAT BECOME EFFECTIVE ON DECEMBER 1, 2011, WILL NOT BE TESTED ON THE MAY 5, 2012 FEDERAL BAR EXAM. FURTHER, ALSO TAKE NOTE THAT THE AMEDMENTS ADOPTED BY THE JURISDICTION AND VENUE CLARIFICATION ACT, Pub. L. No. 112-63, EFFECTIVE THIRTY DAYS AFTER ITS ENACTMENT, WILL NOT BE TESTED ON THE MAY 5, 2012 FEDERAL BAR EXAM.